

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1-18 remain active in the application.

The claims have been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which applicants regard as their invention and to address the issues raised in items 1 and 2 of the Official Action.

The examiner has kindly suggested appropriate changes to claims 7, 10, 11, 13, 16 and 18 and these suggestions have been adopted.

Claim 11 is revised to make it clear applicants are directing their claims to an article, not a method. The procedure of "loading" a catalyst and a co-catalyst component onto a ceramic support is well documented in the description of the invention including, among several passages, the description of Figure 1 of the drawings which is illustrative. Note also the text associated with Figure 1 of the drawings at pages 7-8 of the description and in particular the comment that the catalyst components can be loaded directly without forming a coating layer of α -alumina or the like by chemically bonding the catalyst components to the substitution elements or other components of the substrate. Claim 8 features the presence substitution elements and claim 9 refers to loading by chemical bonding. *See* also claim 4 which features the primary catalyst component and co-catalyst components loaded directly onto at least the inner surfaces of pores that are open to the outer surface of the ceramic support and compare it with Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings. Further, *see* allowable claims 2 and 3 regarding loading various amounts of the co-catalyst component onto the inner surfaces of the pores of the base ceramic.

Applicants submit that the claims now under review and subsequent to this Amendment are fully compliant with 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections/rejections is solicited.

The claims as originally filed have attracted two provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejections on the basis of two co-pending applications 10/202,826 (now abandoned) and 10/290,325. In order to advance prosecution, a Terminal Disclaimer in respect of 10/290,325 is submitted with this response.

The balance of the Official Action relates to two prior art-based rejections directed towards all but original claims 2, 3, 5 and 6. The first, directed to claims 1, 4, 7, 11 and 18 is one

of alleged anticipation based upon U.S. 5,075,276 to Ozawa. Ozawa is merely illustrative of the prior art of using an alumina slurry to coat or attach catalytic reactive particles. This rejection may have been the result of the manner in which original claim 1 was expressed.

Ozawa discloses a catalyst having a support substrate, a catalyst carrier layer formed on the support substrate and catalyst ingredients loaded on the catalyst carrier layer. For example, a honeycomb-shape cordierite monolithic catalyst support substrate is immersed in an alumina slurry (a coating layer), and then dried and burned. Next, the resulting monolithic catalyst support substrate is immersed in a slurry containing catalyst ingredients, and then dried and burned (Example 1 of column 4, lines 35 to 62). The use of a coating layer is acknowledged by applicants on page 1, lines 10-15. Thus, Ozawa simply represents art related to the present invention.

On the other hand, the primary catalyst components and co-catalyst component in the present invention are directly loaded onto the surface of the ceramic support through an ionic bond or nano-crack. The features and the effects resulting therefrom are clearly different from those of Ozawa.

It is quite clear that the claims, especially as above presented, are in no way anticipated by the disclosures of Ozawa. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is in order.

Claims 8, 10 and 12-17 are rejected on the basis of Ozawa (as discussed above) further in view of published European application 043,067 or Japanese patent document JP2001310128.

The deficiencies of the primary reference are discussed above and will be apparent.

EP '067 and JP '128 share the same defect as Ozawa, namely they do not disclose that primary catalyst components and a co-catalyst components are directly loaded onto a ceramic support. Therefore, all of applicants' claims are patentable over the combination of Ozawa with EP '067 and JP '128.

Even assuming *arguendo* the three documents are appropriately combined (which they are not), the resulting combination is not suggestive of applicants' claims which are directed to patentable and distinct differences in the combination of documents applied. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Applicants submit that all of the claims in this application are allowable including of course claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 as indicated in item 11 of the Official Action. Reconsideration and

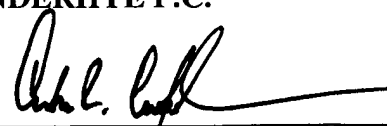
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March 9, 2006

allowance are solicited. Should the examiner require further information, please contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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